

MP 520: CONTEMPORARY CULTURE IN MISSIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE (4 units). Wilbert R. Shenk, Professor of Mission History and Contemporary Culture; Online Facilitation by Mark Hopkins, Adjunct Instructor in Church in Contemporary Culture

DESCRIPTION:

Modern culture has marginalized all religion; mainline church membership has declined. Although the primary focus in the course is on the church in the West, modernity is a universal phenomenon. This course proposes a new paradigm: missionary engagement as basic stance of church toward modern/postmodern culture. This requires that key questions be examined: Why has the church largely failed to challenge modern culture? How can we step outside our culture in order to see ourselves through "mission" eyes? How is a missionary approach different from conventional evangelism?

RELEVANCE FOR MINISTRY:

This course is designed to be a comprehensive introduction for those who wish to reflect on the impact modern and postmodern culture has had on them, their ministries and churches.

COURSE FORMAT:

The class will be conducted on the Internet using a 10-week lesson program aligned with Fuller's academic calendar. Each week students and the instructor will interact with the material examining key themes and characteristics of modern/postmodern culture through journaling, threaded discussions and live Internet "chats", and web-based research.

REQUIRED READING: A minimum of 1,300 pages of reading from the following books:

Tom Beaudoin. 1998. *Virtual Faith*. Jossey-Bass.
 David J. Bosch, 1995 *Believing in the Future*. Trinity.
 Darrell Guder, ed., 1998. *Missional Church*. Eerdmans.
 Douglas John Hall, 1997 *The End of Christendom and the Future of Christianity*. Trinity.
 G. R. Hunsberger/C. Van Gelder, eds., 1996 *The Church Between Gospel and Culture*. Eerdmans.
 J. R. Middleton and B. J. Walsh. 1995. *Truth Is Stranger Than It Used to Be*. IVP.
 Lesslie Newbigin, 1989 *The Gospel in a Pluralist Society*. Eerdmans.
 Wilbert R. Shenk, 1995. *Write the Vision: The Church Renewed*. (Trinity) Wipf and Stock repr.
 Toulmin, S, 1990 *Cosmopolis*. Free Press.

RECOMMENDED READING:

Robert Bellah, et al., 1986 *Habits of the Heart*. Harper & Row.
 Reginald Bibby, 1993, *Unknown Gods*. Stoddart.
 Shirl J. Hoffman, ed., 1992 *Sport and Religion*. Human Kinetics Books.
 Martin Marty, 1969 *The Modern Schism*. Harper.
 H. Montefiore, ed., 1992 *The Gospel and Contemporary Culture*. Mowbray.
 R. D. Putnam. 2000. *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community*. Touchstone.
 Roxburgh, Alan J., 1997 *The Missionary Congregation, Leadership, and Liminality*. Trinity.
 Quentin J. Schultze, 1991 *Televangelism and American Culture*. Baker.
 Q. Schultze, ed., 1991 *Dancing in the Dark*. Eerdmans.
 Douglas D. Webster, 1992 *Selling Jesus*. IVP.
 Robert Wuthnow, 1988. *The Restructuring of American Religion*. Princeton

ASSIGNMENTS:

1. Weekly Threaded Discussions, Journaling, Web research.
2. Three book reviews.
3. A contemporary novel to be read or film watched (a list provided in the syllabus), and write a 1,000 word review.
4. A 3,000 word paper which treats a cultural theme identified in the course in light of the Christian mission mandate.

PREREQUISITES: This course is only available to those who are accepted into the MA in Global Leadership.

RELATIONSHIP TO CURRICULUM: A required course for the Cohort portion of the MA in Global Leadership.

NO AUDITORS.

FINAL EXAMINATION: None.

Last updated February, 2004